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Report of the International Court of Justice

Secretary-General's Trust Fund to Assist States in the Settlement of Disputes through the International Court of Justice

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 16 of the Revised Terms of Reference, Guidelines and Rules of the Secretary-General's Trust Fund to Assist States in the Settlement of Disputes through the International Court of Justice (A/59/372, annex) and is subsequent to the report submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session (A/69/337 and Corr.1).

II. Mandate

2. The Fund was established in 1989 under the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, following consultations with the President of the International Court of Justice. In accordance with the Revised Terms of Reference, financial assistance is to be provided to States for expenses incurred in connection with: (a) a dispute submitted to the Court by way of a special agreement, on the basis of Article 36, paragraph 1, of its Statute; (b) a dispute submitted to the Court by way of an application on the basis of Article 36, paragraphs 1 and 2, of its Statute, provided certain conditions are fulfilled (see A/59/372, annex, para. 6 (ii)); or (c) the execution of a judgment of the Court.

III. Beneficiaries

3. Subject to the requirements of paragraph 6 of the Revised Terms of Reference, an application for financial assistance from the Fund may be submitted by any State Member of the United Nations, any other State party to the Statute of the International Court of Justice or any State not party to the Statute of the Court having complied with Article 35, paragraph 2, of the Statute.

* A/70/150.

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4. During the period under review (1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015), the Fund received no new applications. It continued to be seized of applications from Burkina Faso and the Niger, received during the previous reporting period (1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014), relating to a dispute between the two States concerning a section of their common boundary. A panel of experts set up in accordance with paragraph 9 of the Revised Terms of Reference continued to examine the applications with a view to advising the Secretary-General on the parameters of the financial assistance, if any, to be provided. Its recommendation and the decision of the Secretary-General on the award of financial assistance will be made in accordance with established practice, bearing in mind the limited resources of the Fund and the need to accommodate any potential future applications.

IV. Contributions

5. Voluntary contributions to the Fund may be made by States, intergovernmental organizations, national institutions and non-governmental organizations, and by natural and juridical persons.

6. During the reporting period, Switzerland made a voluntary contribution of $20,223.76 to the Fund (for the financial year 2015).

7. As at 30 June 2015, the balance of the Fund was $3,191,347.

V. Needs assessment

8. The Charter of the United Nations, in Article 1, paragraph 1, recognizes the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law as one of the basic purposes of the United Nations and as an essential tool for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Court is the principal judicial organ of the Organization. As noted above, the Fund was created with a view to facilitating a decision by parties to a dispute to seek judicial settlement of their dispute through the Court. While the Secretary-General is grateful to the Member States that have contributed to the Fund, he also notes that the number of contributions remains very low and therefore strongly urges all States and other relevant entities to give serious consideration to making contributions to the Fund, substantially and on a regular basis.

VI. How to contribute

9. Voluntary contributions to the Fund can be made by bank transfer or by cheque. Cheques should be to the order of the United Nations General Trust Fund, indicating "ICJ Trust Fund (TJA)" in the reference field, and sent to:

United Nations Headquarters
United Nations Treasury
New York, N.Y. 10017
United States of America
Attention: Room No. S-2011

For bank transfer details, please contact the United Nations Treasury (tel: 1 212 963 5971; fax: 1 917 367 0668).

10. For any additional information, please contact the Office of the Legal Counsel, Office of Legal Affairs (tel: 1 212 963 3999; fax: 1 212 963 6430).